



**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 14, 2015**

**City Hall Kiva Forum  
3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

**PRESENT:** Bob Fox, Chair (telephonic)  
James Campbell, Vice-Chair  
Andrew Song, Commissioner (telephonic)  
Laurie Coe, Commissioner  
Ragan Grossman, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Ricoh Danielson

**STAFF:** Sharon Cini  
David Simmons

**GUESTS:** Angeleen Gumer  
Daria Lohman

**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL**

Vice-Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Members present as noted above

**1. Approval of minutes from the August 10, 2015 meeting**

**COMMISSIONER COE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 10, 2015 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. CHAIR FOX SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER DANIELSON WAS ABSENT.**

## **2. Public Comment**

Daria Lohman suggested that in light of current events involving police officers around the nation, the Human Relations Commission hold a meeting with the police department to discuss their approach to ensuring that Scottsdale is not faced with any similar situations.

Angeleen Gumer introduced herself, noting that she is a representative of the Sikh Coalition. The Sikh Coalition conducts awareness programs in schools and other venues in hopes of enlightening the community and preventing bullying. She offered to be a resource for the City. She invited Commission members to attend an event celebrating the life of Balbir Singh Sodhi, who was killed following the 9/11 attacks.

## **3. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff regarding community diversity partners**

Jason Wong, chairman of the Board of the Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leadership (ACEL), gave a presentation discussing the ACEL organization and the efforts of the group. ACEL focuses on professional development and networking and helping businesses among the Asian community. He explained how the organization is used as a platform to practice leadership. His goal in partnering with the Human Relations Commission is to offer an opportunity for ACEL to get information out to Scottsdale citizens and activating the cultural offerings in the community.

## **4. Presentation and discussion from Equality Arizona regarding information on a new collaborative community effort**

Kevin Patterson, Equality Arizona (EQAZ) Board member, gave a presentation discussing Arizona's legislation and awareness of LGBT rights. He discussed difficulties same sex couples have in expanding their families through the adoption system, especially with second parent adoption. He stressed the importance of adoption and child welfare organizations working together instead of competing with each other. Equality Arizona is intended to offer education and to guide couples to the resources that can best address their needs. The program monitors the political landscape in Arizona and supports the political candidates who are working to protect children and the LGBT community.

Commission members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Patterson discussed the court process that a second parent must go through in order to adopt, noting that at this time the statutes leave it to the discretion of the judge hearing the case whether or not to allow second parent adoption. Mr. Patterson said that he envisioned that the Human Relations Commission could work with his organization to educate the community about adoption and foster care and to share EQAZ's calendar of events.

## **5. Presentation, discussion and recommendation to staff liaison regarding Civil Dialogue events "Beyond Right & Wrong: Stories of Justice and Forgiveness" film/speaker on October 1, 2015 and "Interfaith community dialogue" on January 27, 2016**

Ms. Cini gave an update on the Beyond Right & Wrong Civil Dialogue event. Marketing materials are being sent out for the event which is scheduled for October 1, 2015 at the

Civic Center Library in the first level auditorium. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., the film will begin at 6:00 p.m. and Jo Berry will speak and offer Q & A following the film at 7:15 p.m.

Vice-Chair Campbell briefly described his vision for the January 27, 2016 Interfaith Community Dialogue Civil dialogue event. He suggested that religious leaders be invited to talk about the idea of Civil dialogue and what they have done to address diversity and improve the harmony of relationships in Scottsdale. Discussion ensued regarding ideas and thoughts for the event. It was suggested that the event be held on a Wednesday early morning because the religious leaders are not available on the weekends and a breakfast event would be more attractive to participants.

The Commission agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

#### **6. Staff updates regarding upcoming diversity events and activities**

Ms. Cini announced that Viva Mexico, Mexican Independence Day celebration is scheduled at the Paiute Neighborhood Center on September 15th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

A film and dialogue event called "Growing up Trans" will be held on September 30th at Scottsdale Community College in the Turquoise Room at 6:00 p.m. The film is a PBS Frontline documentary talking about trans gender youth and their families.

City Council has directed staff to identify elements of a non-discrimination Ordinance and return to City Council with a report on November 23rd.

#### **7. Report from the Chair**

Chair Fox noted in response to Ms. Lohman's comment that during the Regional Human Relations Commission Meeting Police Chief Alan Rodbell attended and spoke about various police issues including the recent police turmoil around the country and steps being taken in Scottsdale to avoid those same issues. He felt that Chief Rodbell would welcome the opportunity to speak with the Commission.

#### **8. Commissioner Items**

Commissioner Coe noted that she was in attendance during the City Council session discussing the non-discrimination Ordinance and was deeply moved with how the discussion transpired.

Vice-Chair Campbell noted that he attended the intense City Council discussion regarding the non-discrimination Ordinance. He also attended the Baha'i Faith Community discussion about diversity and inclusion.

#### **9. Discussion regarding the draft agenda for the next meeting, and dates, times and topics for upcoming meetings**

Ms. Cini said that the next agenda will include diversity inclusion framework and a farewell to Chairman Fox. She will talk with Chief Rodbell about possibly giving an update to the Commission.

Vice-Chair Campbell requested a discussion about the Alliance of National Mental Illness event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz